

VETERANS DAY 2002 *Message*

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ON Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the American men and women who have served in our Nation's Armed Forces. Through their sacrifices, they have purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy, and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States today, and they have set the conditions for the United States' place as global leader, with the world's strongest economy, and the most respected and feared military in the world.

And as we celebrate the contributions of our veterans, we also take this opportunity to salute and to honor you, the Soldiers serving in the Army today. Your determination and your readiness to go where you are needed whenever you are called are potent symbols of liberty, justice, and hope for freedom-loving people the world over.

Today, Soldiers build upon the 227-year legacy established by veterans who have gone before. From the first battle of the American Revolution to our ongoing war against terrorism, in conflicts around the globe and in humanitarian missions at home and abroad that have saved countless lives, Soldiers have provided the sword and shield that protects our Nation. And they are doing so today—over 190,000 Soldiers deployed and forward stationed in 120 countries around the world.

Each day you serve, you voluntarily forego comfort and wealth, willingly facing hardships and deployments away from family and loved ones. Sometimes you confront danger and face death in defending the Nation's security. To all of you on point for the Nation, whether far from home or here in the United States, thank you for your contributions and your countless sacrifices. It is an honor to serve with you.

And so on 11 November, a day of reflection and tribute, we salute you, and we pledge to you our tireless efforts to ensure that The Army remains the world's preeminent warfighting land force—the most esteemed institution in the Nation, and the most respected Army in the world.



Eric K. Shinseki

Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Thomas E. White

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Secretary of the Army